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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 7 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 31 January 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the elections in Chechnya.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 31 January 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the elections in Chechnya

The European Union welcomes the way the presidential and parliamentary elections in the Russian republic of Chechnya were conducted. The elections represent the free will of the voters and form a legitimate base for the new authorities. The European Union expresses the sincere hope that the election results will contribute to establishing the necessary democratic framework within which progress can be made towards a comprehensive solution of the conflict. The European Union highly appreciates the contribution made by the mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Grozny to the organization and monitoring of the elections.

Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, align themselves with this statement.